

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows.

**Delete the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 and substitute therefore the following:**

Porous blanks of ceramic for the production of skeletal structures for tooth crowns and/or bridges can be made of various metal compositions, in particular from at least one metal oxide powder of the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  and zirconia oxide mixed crystal  $\text{Zr}_{1-x}\text{Me}_x\text{O}_2-\left(\frac{4n}{2}\right)_x\text{O}$  where Me is a metal present in oxide form as 2-, 3- or 4-valent cation ( $n = 2, 3, 4$  and  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ) and stabilises the tetragonal and/or cubic phase of the zirconia oxide. Further details of the material composition of the blanks is described in detail hereinbelow. The blanks can also undergo thermal pretreatment as described in more detail hereinbelow.

**Page 12, delete the sixth paragraph and substitute therefore the following:**

The blanks are in practice usually made of a metal oxide powder of the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  and zirconia oxide mixed crystal  $\text{Zr}_{1-x}\text{Me}_x\text{O}_2-\left(\frac{4n}{2}\right)_x\text{O}$  where Me is a metal which is present in oxide form as a bi-, tri- or tetravalent cation and stabilises the tetragonal and/or cubic phase of the zirconia oxide. In the formula for the zirconia oxide mixed crystal  $n = 2, 3$  or  $4$  and  $0 < x < 1$ .